

Changes to Motorcycle Definition

New Information

Effective January 1, 2009, *California Vehicle Code* (CVC) §400 was amended. This amendment deleted the 1,500 pound weight limit for all motorcycles and the maximum speed limit for electric motorcycles.

Amended Definition

The amended definition of a motorcycle per CVC §400 is:

- (a) A "motorcycle" is a motor vehicle having a seat or saddle for the use of the rider, designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground.
- (b) A motor vehicle that has four wheels in contact with the ground, two of which are a functional part of a sidecar, is a motorcycle if the vehicle otherwise comes within the definition of subdivision (a).
- (c) A farm tractor is not a motorcycle.
- (d) A three-wheeled motor vehicle that otherwise meets the requirements of subdivision (a), has a partially or completely enclosed seating area for the driver and passenger, is used by local public agencies for the enforcement of parking control provisions, and is operated at slow speeds on public streets, is not a motorcycle. However, a motor vehicle described in this subdivision shall comply with the applicable sections of this code imposing equipment installation requirements on motorcycles.

Background

Legislation effective January 1, 2009, amended the definition of a motorcycle (CVC §400), deleting the weight limit for all motorcycles and the speed limitations of electric motorcycles.

Reference

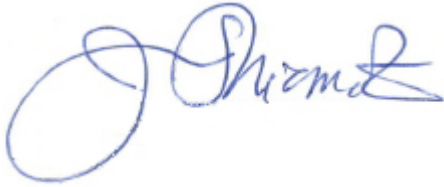
California Vehicle Code §400

Distribution

Notification that this memo is available online at www.dmv.ca.gov under Publications was made via e-mail alert in July 2009.

Contact

Call the DMV Customer Communications Section, at (916) 657-6560 for further clarification of this memo. Upon request, this document can be produced in Braille or large print.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Shiimoto". The signature is stylized with a large loop at the beginning and a cursive script for the rest of the name.

JEAN SHIOMOTO, Deputy Director
Communication Programs Division